

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on April 10, 2008.

Claims 1, 3, 5-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 27-32 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1, 3, 7, 10, 14, and 18 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim rejection

Page 9 of the Office Action indicates that claims 10-12, 14-16, and 18-20 contain allowable subject matter. Appreciation is expressed for this indication.

Accordingly, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections made within the Office Action and in order to advance the prosecution of the present application,:

- claim 10 has been placed into independent form;
- prior claim 12 has been placed into claim 1 to form amended claim 1 along with the cancellation of claim 12;
- claim 14 has been placed into independent form;
- prior claim 16 has been placed into claim 3 to form amended claim 3 along with the cancellation of claim 16;
- claim 18 has been placed into independent form;
- prior claim 20 has been placed into claim 7 to form amended claim 7 along with the cancellation of claim 20;

- claims 21-26 have been canceled;
- the features of claims 5 and 7 have been presented as claims 27-28, which are dependent upon allowed claim 10;
- the features of claims 6 and 13 have been presented as claims 29-30, which are dependent upon allowed claim 14; and
- the features of claims 8 and 17 have been presented as claims 31-32, which are dependent upon allowed claim 18.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Official Notice

There is no concession as to the veracity of Official Notice, if taken in any Office Action.

An affidavit or document should be provided in support of any Official Notice taken. 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), MPEP § 2144.03. See also, *Ex parte Natale*, 11 USPQ2d 1222, 1227-1228 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1989)(failure to provide any objective evidence to support the challenged use of Official Notice constitutes clear and reversible error).

Extensions of time

Please treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees.

If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

Conclusion

This response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks is courteously solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

Dated: May 27, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  40,290

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